



Volume 4, Issue 3

Ouranophantor

March 2021

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office:

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Proistamenos

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Saturday March 6, 2021 — Saturday of Souls—Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 — Saturday of Souls—Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Monday, March 15, 2021 — Lent Begins

Saturday, March 20, 2021 — Saturday of Souls—Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 21, 2021 — Sunday of Orthodoxy —Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



Baptisms:

February 27, 2021

Juliana Christine daughter of Ethan & Marissa Jacobson

Godparents: George & Elena Kontos

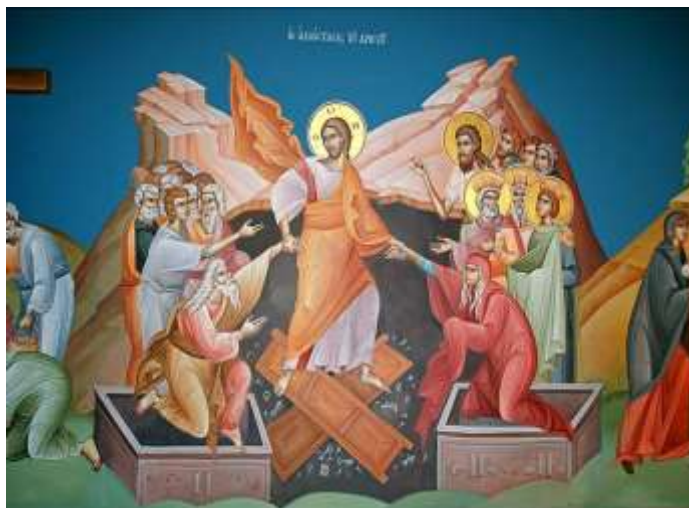
Chrismations:



Weddings:



Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter Great Lent this year, we do so in a way that is most interesting. It was a year ago, on March 15th, the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, that our Metropolitan made the extraordinary decision to cease in-person services due to the very real threat of Covid-19. All of the other Metropolises followed suit shortly after. This was after many weeks of uncertainty of what should be done to protect the faithful as it became painfully obvious that this pandemic was serious and spreading.

Throughout the majority of Great and Holy Lent for 2020, our faithful were unable to attend services. By God's grace, St. Basil already livestreamed services, but other parishes did not. It was a most trying time for our faithful as the original hope was to close only for a few weeks and pray that we could celebrate Pascha in person together. That did not happen, and we did not worship in person together for some time after.

Now we have worshiped in person for many months. At first with a handful, then 10, then 25, then 50, and then we added Saturday "At-Risk Liturgies" for the faithful to come and worship safely. There is abundant hope that we may have more people able to worship together for Pascha of this year, even with safety restrictions still in place.

Now, as of writing this article, 10 percent of the American population has received the vaccine. Infection rates and deaths are lowering quickly, and this fills this Lent with a different feeling than the previous. Now, instead of entering with fear, we are entering with hope. We enter with joy that we will be able to not only livestream our services, but have parishioners attend the services safely thanks to the hard work of our Covid-19 safety committee and the willingness of our faithful stewards to adopt the recommended safety measures.

Even with those measures, a number of our faithful still have not returned, and we respect their decision to wait until the conclusion of the pandemic. My invitation, though, for those who would like to attend church, but have been nervous about the number of people on Sundays is to come to one of the many Lenten Services this year. These services traditionally have fewer participants than on Sunday.

Join us for Great Compline on Monday Nights at 6:00 p.m.

This service has some of the most profound prayers and hymns. From the Penitential Prayer of Manasse to the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem, to the stirring antiphonal chanting of "For God is with us," to the tear inducing yet hopeful hymn of "Lord of the Powers," the faithful participant experiences all of the emotion of Great Lent in the somber dimly lit church.

Join us for Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesday Nights at 5:30 p.m. and Friday Mornings at 6:30 a.m.

During Great Lent, with the exception of the Feast of the Annunciation, we are not permitted to offer the Divine Liturgy (during week days) as we normally do. The Church, recognizing the spiritual need for the Eucharist to strengthen the faithful during their Lenten journey, prescribed this special and moving Liturgy to offer solace and strength. For those wishing to receive Communion, please do not eat anything (unless medically necessary) after 1:00 p.m.

Join us for the Salutations Service to the Theotokos on Friday Nights at 6:00 p.m.

During Great Lent, we turn to the Mother of God to give us her loving comfort as she intercedes to her Son on our behalf. This beautiful service features the Akathist Hymn split into four parts before being offered in its fullness on the fifth Friday of Great Lent. During each stanza that mirrors the Greek alphabet with the first word of each stanza corresponding to the next letter, we hear about the nature of our Lady and her love for us as we chant unto her “Hail, O Bride unwed,” while exalting our God and chanting “Halleluia!”

Especially because these services were denied you last year by the pandemic, it is my hope that you will take part this year and enliven your Lenten journey in a powerful way!

Your servant in Christ,



Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

Greetings St. Basil Parishioners:

We hope everyone is staying safe and warm. Spring is almost here, and we hope that with the warmer weather comes signs of hope on the Covid-19 front. We are still limited to 50 people at each service, so please remember to either sign up online or call the church office to reserve your spot. As a reminder, all services are streamed on Facebook and YouTube, if you can't be there in person.

Please save the date for our Golf Outing, Wednesday, July 14, at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. We were not able to have the outing last year due to Covid-19, so we hope everyone can join us this year. Details and more information will be forthcoming. We hope to see everyone again soon.

Jayme Schenk
Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Hello Everyone:

On Tuesday, April 13 (late morning), we will feed the hungry outside Annunciation Cathedral. If you are interested in joining us, please email me at nkourvas@gmail.com or call the church office. This is open to everyone, and COVID precautions will be taken.

As we near spring and the Lenten season, Philoptochos is working on some lovely fundraising ideas, and we can't wait to share them with everyone. Keep an eye out for emails and Facebooks posts with more information.

We are always looking for new members! By joining Philoptochos, you are joining a group of women who are always willing to help others and will create an outlet for you to share and execute your ideas on how to do so. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to me or the church office. Our next Philoptochos meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at 7p.m. via Zoom.

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos now has its website up and running. For latest news and updates please visit <https://chicagophilos.org/>

Καλή Σαρακοστή! Happy Lent!

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas
St. Basil Philoptochos President



Stewardship Update



Registration for 2021 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/srteewardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2021 Snapshot (as of February 26, 2021)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
93	\$159,139	\$44,963

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

2021 Stewardship Challenge

This year, the Stewardship Committee has set an additional challenge to our stewards for the 2021 year. We challenge each steward to become a member of at least one ministry of our parish. With so many to choose from, this should be an easy task. If you want to volunteer, we have philanthropy ministries. If you want to get involved in the life of the Church, we have ministries for that too. Even during COVID-19 there are so many things to do. Join us in making our parish more complete by your presence.

Embrace the Challenge!



Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

Lent is quickly approaching, and this year the St. Basil Sunday School students will be participating in “Love at Lent” project. Love at Lent is a project for the entire family. Each day a family selects a card for that day of Lent. Each card encourages behavior toward the greater good, mindfulness, prayer, and spiritual devotion for families. We are excited about this new Lenten project.

Sunday School is offering both in-person and online sessions. Please remember that in order to receive instruction students need to be registered for the St. Basil Sunday School program. Sunday School students grades K-4 can access their Sunday School lessons in the Bitmoji virtual classroom on the St. Basil website. Students grades 5-7 may also access lessons in the Bitmoji through Zoom meets. The older grades meet virtually via Zoom and class has been a great success. The Bitmoji classrooms, Zoom meets, and lessons are outstanding. Great job to the St. Basil Sunday School team!





ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IS USING SIGN UP GENIUS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/20f0a44abad28a6f85-divine](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a44abad28a6f85-divine)

TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND DIVINE SERVICES

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

If a family member is unable to use Sign Up Genius, please call the church office and Vicky will help sign up that individual.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



St. Basil
Greek Orthodox Church
of Chicago, Illinois



When: Tuesday Mornings –
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: ONLINE VIA



Participate in a Zoom Meeting Watch on Facebook Live and ask questions in the comments

Bible Study with Fr. Dimitri



St. Paul's
1st Letter
to the
Corinthians

ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ONLINE ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

ACQUIRE THE HEAVENLY VIRTUES AND LOVE GOD MORE FULLY

November 11 - April 14

Join us online each week

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Zoom Classroom

<https://zoom.us/j/97901297537>

Meeting ID: 979 0129 7537

Read the Text Online by [Clicking this Link](#)

Buying more online these days?



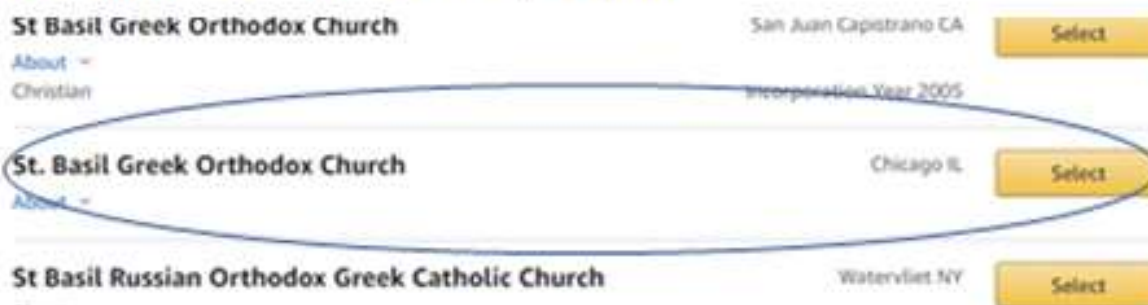
St. Basil can benefit from

Imagine if all your purchases on Amazon.com resulted in Amazon making a contribution to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.

The Amazon Smile program does just that, giving 0.5% of the purchase price of each expenditure.

Here's how you can make that happen:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?q=St.+Basil+Greek+Orthodox+Church>
2. Sign into Amazon Smile with your same username and password, as you would to Amazon.
3. Select St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago IL



4. Whenever purchasing from Amazon, make sure you buy your items from [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) (you will not need to select your charity again when you sign in).

Encourage your friends and family to make St. Basil Church their charity of choice.

For more information call Vicky Crosby at the St. Basil office, 312-243-3738 or Steve Cole, 312-493-4063.

DONATIONS FOR GREAT LENT & PASCHAL SEASON 2021

GREAT LENT:

Flowers for Icon of the Panagia on Fridays

1st Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75

2nd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75

3rd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75

4th Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75

Akathist Hymn/Ακάθιστος Ύμνος - \$100

- ♦ Flowers for Stavroproskyniseos (3rd Sunday) - \$300
- ♦ Bottles or Cases of Nama Wine
- ♦ Incense for Great Lent - \$250
- ♦ Flowers for Icon of Palm Sunday - \$50
- ♦ Palms & Daphne for Palm Sunday - \$750



HOLY WEEK:

- ♦ Flowers for Icon of Nymphios - \$75
- ♦ Extra Virgin Olive Oil for Holy Unction
- ♦ Flour for Holy Unction
- ♦ Seven Candles for Holy Unction - \$50
- ♦ Flowers for Icon of Mystical Supper - \$75
- ♦ Flowers for Icon of Crucifixion - \$75
- ♦ Candles for the Holy Cross – \$50
- ♦ 12 Candles for the Twelve Holy Gospels - \$80
- ♦ Stefani-Stavromenon (Flowered Wreath) Holy Thursday - \$150
- ♦ White Sheet for Body of Christ - 1 queen flat needed
- ♦ Flowers for Decorating the Epitafios - \$800
- ♦ Epitafios Roses for the Faithful - \$900
- ♦ Rose Water & Rose Petals Holy Friday - \$100
- ♦ Rose Petals for Holy Saturday Morning - \$200
- ♦ Clergy Resurrection/Anastasi Candle – \$250
- ♦ Flowers for Icons of the Resurrection - \$75 each (2)

Note: Please specify exact item with your donation. THANK YOU for your love & support! Βοήθειά σας!

Please complete the information below and return entire form to the St. Basil Church office; along with your payment.	
Kindly make checks payable to <u>St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.</u>	
(Please print)	
Item	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone ()	_____
Donation Amount \$	_____ Check _____ Cash _____ Credit Card _____
Credit Card:	Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____
Card Number	_____ Exp. Date _____
Signature (for Credit Card)	_____

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 21st		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 28th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 7th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 14th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 21st		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 28th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 4th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 11th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 18th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 25th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 30th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I truly recognized my complete dependence on God? Have I been proud, arrogant, and self-righteous in my ways? Have I been selfish, possessive, and self-seeking? Have I sought after status, power, and wealth?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Have I endured difficulties and afflictions with faith and patience? Have I felt sadness for the sufferings of the poor, the hungry, and addicted; the sick, the lonely, and the sinful of the world? Have I truly been sorrowful for my sins and faults?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Have I tried to serve or rather to dominate others at home, school, work, office, church, and elsewhere? Have I nursed against anyone? Have I been resentful, bitter, unforgiving, or insulting and abusive to others? Have I loved my enemies?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Have I truly yearned for God's will to be done in all things? Have I worked for justice in my family, society, and the world in ways within my reach? Have I tried to cultivate a righteous life through prayer, fasting, worship, receiving Holy Communion, and deeds of love toward others?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Have I shown compassion and help toward the poor, hungry, lonely, and needy around me? Have I tried to understand and forgive others? Have I been indifferent, judgmental, or legalistic?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Have I loved goodness, purity, and holiness? Have I succumbed to evil motives and intentions? Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds? Have I been guilty of bias and prejudice? Have I been hypocritical, pretentious, or self-indulgent to sinful passions?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

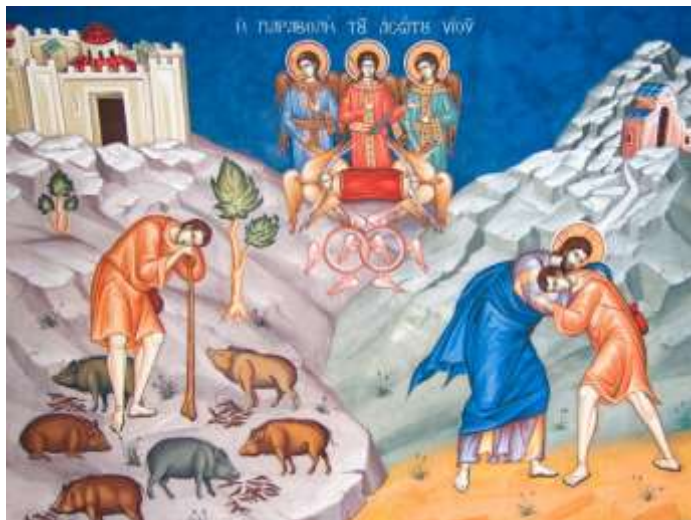
Do I have God's peace in my heart? Have I been unfairly angry, aggressive, or impatient? Have I worked for peace at home, work, church, and in society? Have I been irritable, polemical, or divisive?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I complained when persecuted for God's sake? Have I prayed for my persecutors? Have I failed to defend anyone in the truth for fear of humiliation or persecution? Have I had the courage to stand up for what is right despite criticism, ridicule, or persecution?

Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you on my account; rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Is the joy of Christ in my heart even in trying moments? Have I been pessimistic, despondent, or despairing? Have I truly delighted in the promise of God's treasures in heaven?



Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers from the following Confessional Prayers, Psalm 51, or the following prayer of repentance:

Prayer of Repentance

O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgression and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

Now, without justification or self-pity, make a prayerful examination of your conscience regarding all things. As a help, reflect on your life in the light of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Take pencil and paper and specify your sins so that, at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory,

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God, and you shall have no other gods before me.

Has God been the source, center, and hope of my life? Have I put myself, others or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love, and mercy? Have I failed to pray to God, to worship Him, and to thank Him for His blessings? Have I tried to serve God and keep His commandments faithfully? Have I murmured or complained against God in adversity? Have I praised and glorified God through my words and deeds?

You shall not make for yourself a graven image in order to worship it.

Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor, and worship that belongs to God alone? Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation, or thing?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into an agreement, promise, or contract against God's law? Have I cursed or used foul language?

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Have I worshiped regularly on Sundays and major feast days and have I helped others to do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's Day in wholesome and edifying ways?

Honor your father and mother.

Have I loved and respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them, deceived them, or caused them pain by my words or deeds? Have I treated all my family members with patience and love?

You shall not kill.

Have I caused the harm, injury, or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others? Have I caused others to commit immoral acts? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken anything that was not mine from anyone or from anywhere? Have I cheated anyone? Have I caused others to steal or cheat? Have I tried to find the owners of lost things I have found? Have I damaged or destroyed anything that belonged to another? Have I defrauded anyone of rightful wages? Have I paid my debts? Have I given to the poor and to philanthropic causes in proportion to my means?

You shall not bear false witness.

Have I given false testimony against anyone? Have I spoken evil, told lies, or spread rumors about anyone? Have I disclosed to anyone the sins and faults of another? Have I made careless statements or done anything else to harm the name and reputation of another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

You shall not covet.

Have I looked with envy, jealousy, or hatred toward the possessions, talents, or achievements of others? Have I desired the downfall or loss of others out of evil intent that I might benefit? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessings on others than on me?

March 14–Forgiveness Sunday



The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

March 21 –Sunday of Orthodoxy



For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow, the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy; that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, Your filled all things with joy, O Our Savior."

March 25 –The Annunciation



Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God,

Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55).

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

March 28 –Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.



His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.

St. Basil — 2021 Stewards

<p>A Chris & Georgia Alems Robert Andreou Stella Antonoglu Peter Antonopoulos Marina Arvanitis & Ed Franklin</p> <p>B Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanis Dorothy Bezemes Steven Bills John & Dr. Christine Bishop Christine Boulos Nick & Angie Brinias</p> <p>C John & Rachel Calash John & Venus Campanelli Keri Chekalas John & Eleni Chioros Chris Christides Ernie & Christine Cochanis Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole Constance Cosmas Pam Cosmos</p> <p>D Anesti & Emily Dhima Gus Drugas</p> <p>F Themis & Angeline Fabiatos James & Beth Flessor Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas John Frangias Themis Frangos Tony & Helene Frankos</p> <p>G George Goltos Daniel & Alexia Gould Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley</p>	<p>H Tom & Kira Haldes Sophia Haritos Arthur & Angie Harris William & Catherine Hostetler</p> <p>J Ethan & Marissa Jacobson</p> <p>K Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Zarif & Constance Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Corey & Leia Kennelly Anthony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos Ryan & Maria-Kanella Koper</p> <p>L Elias Loumakis</p> <p>M Dina Manasses Vicky Manasses Harry & Kathy Michas</p> <p>P James & Bess Pabin Rhonda Panousakis Emily Papachristou Marcie Papadakis Nickolas Pappas John & Loula Plesiotis Nondas & Angie Plesiotis John & Carol Pontikes Lambros & Mary Peroulas John & Carol Pontikes</p>	<p>R James & Mary Ratos John Regas Suzanne Regas Anthony & Christina Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis Ken & Helene Paspalas-Rubenstein</p> <p>S Irene Santos Jayme Schenk Harold & Cindy Schroeder Panagiota Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Stavroula Spyropoulos George & Cynthia Stathopoulos Kathy Stratton</p> <p>T Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias George Tsagaris MariaTsagaris Anthony Tsenes Sophia Tsilimigras George & Julianna Tziahanas</p> <p>V Catherine Valsamoulis Dee Vergos</p> <p>W Kathy Walstrom Francis & Kanella Willsey</p> <p>Z William & Dorothy Zimbrakos</p>
---	--	--

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 First Day of Women's History Month Parish Council 7:00 pm	2 10:00 am Bible Study	3 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class	4	5 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	6 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls
7 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)	8	9 7:00 pm Philoptochos ZOOM Meeting 7:00 pm Philoptochos Mtg	10 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class	11	12 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	13 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Cheese-fare Saturday
14 8:15 am Daylight Saving Time starts Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Forgiveness Sunday	15 6:00 pm Great Compline - Clean Monday	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17 5:30 pm St. Patrick's Day Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class	18	19 6:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Early Morning Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to Theotokos	20 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for First Saturday of Lent: The Commemoration of the Miracle of Koliva wrought by St. Theodore the Tyro
21 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday Of Orthodoxy	22 6:00 pm Great Compline	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24 5:30 pm Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class 7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation	25 6:30 am Early Morning Liturgy for The Annunciation 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy of the Annunciation (Chicago)	26 6:00 pm Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Salutations to Theotokos	27 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy Second Saturday of Lent
28 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas	29 6:00 pm Great Compline	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 5:30 pm Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 pm Online A.R.E. Class			



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607